

Atty. Docket No. JP919990027US1
(590.049)

REMARKS

Applicant and the undersigned are most grateful for the continuing time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. Claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-18 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action dated December 28, 2005. Of these claims 1, 8, 15, 17, and 18 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims.

Specifically, Claims 1-5, 8, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al., U.S. Patent 5,872,924 (Nakayama) in view of Noveck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,832,363 (Noveck). Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck and in further view of Itakura, U.S. Patent 6,639,608. Claims 7, 10-11, 12, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck and in further view of Simonoff, U.S. Patent 6,463,460.

Presently, Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to further define the novel aspects of the present invention. The Applicant intends no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on the allowability of the claims, but merely made to expedite prosecution. Moreover, as discussed below, all of the claims are patentably distinct over the applied art and should, therefore, be immediately allowed.

The Applicant's previous remarks submitted in the Amendment dated October 5, 2005, remain equally applicable to the present rejections. Applicant therefore continues

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to traverse the rejections for all the reasons set forth in the Amendment dated October 5, 2005, which is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

As an overview, the Applicant has attempted to explain his position that the prior art and particularly the Nakayama reference fails to teach, suggest, or disclose an owner identifier, which indicates the creator of objects as set forth in all of the independent claims. As indicated in the Applicant's previous remarks the use of "owner" in Nakayama is very different than the use of owner in the present invention. Furthermore, the use of "author" in Nakayama, which as best understood is arguably of greater similarity to the present disclosure's use of "owner", is simply not taught related to the displaying of an indicator. As indicated before "[w]hat is ... explained and shown in Figure 6 is the displaying of an "owner" identifier that represents the user or users capable of sharing the operation of an object. What is not taught or disclosed in Nakayama is the displaying of an "author" identifier that is a representation of a user who actually generated the object." (Page 12) However, the Office has indicated it disagrees, because "[n]ot only does Nakayama teach the object identifier being set as the author identifier by default,..., Nakayama clearly indicates if an object attribute is set to 'open private' a displayed owner identifier would be the author identifier since the owner of the object is the author and is the only participant who has the right to operate the object." (Office Action Page 3) The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections for the following reasons.

Applicant disagrees that an object identifier is set as the author identifier by default. As best understood, it appears an attribute value for owner is a user ID which is

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by default author. Such an attribute value is simply not a *displayed owner identifier* and therefore fails to meet the present claims.

Broadly, as the Examiner knows, Nakayama appears to describe three object "attributes". (Col. 5, Col. 6) It also appears, as best understood by the Applicant, Nakayama also allows for the displaying of an indicator as shown in Figure 6. (Col. 7, lines 27-43) By using the "indicator" "[t]he owner of the object can be readily identified." (Col. 7, 41-43) Never is it taught or even suggested that by using the indicator the author of an object, i.e., the creator of the object, can be readily identified. In what appears to be the only figure related to an indicator disclosed by Nakayama, it is shown in Figure 6 three computer screens each having an indicator during a session of the Nakayama invention. Applicant suggests what appears to be shown in Figure 6, is the indication of the attribute "shared," "open private," or "non-open private". Where the PO attribute is shared, "SHARE" is displayed in the indicator. However, where the attribute is open private, "SMITH" is displayed in the indicator. The use of the word "SMITH" is arbitrary in that it would been just as likely to use the word "OPEN-PRIVATE", since what the indicator is displaying is the attribute "open private" and not the author or even the owner of the particular object.

Since Nakayama clearly fails to teach or suggest displaying an owner identifier, which indicates the creator of objects, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be presently established in view of Nakayama alone or in combination with the other cited references. As the Examiner is aware, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 there must be: (1) a suggestion or motivation to modify a reference

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or combine references; (2) a reasonable expectation of success in making the modification or combination; and (3) a teaching or suggestion to one skilled in the art of all the claimed limitations of the invention to which the art is applied. *See In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). It is respectfully submitted that the prior art alone or in combination fails to teach or suggest to one skilled in the art, *inter alia*, displaying an indicator of the owner of an object where the owner is the creator of that object; therefore, the claims are presently allowable and the immediate withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is again requested. It should be noted that since the deficiencies of Nakayama indicate the withdrawal of the present rejections is appropriate further remarks as to the remaining bases for rejection will be withheld, as such would be superfluous at this time. However, it should be understood the Applicant continues to traverse any and all bases for the present rejections of the current claims and reserves the right to present such arguments at a later date in the unlikely event such would be deemed necessary.

For all of the aforementioned reasons the withdrawal of all the rejections relying upon Nakayama alone or in combination is necessary and proper. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 17 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-7 and 10-14 are also presently allowable.

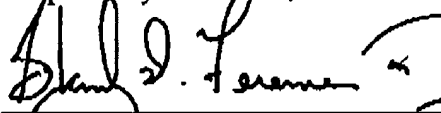
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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17, and 18, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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